of the Revolution is to be preserved, and a height of 14 feet for the statue, exclusive of the pedestal, is contemplated.

BUILDERS' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

A special general meeting of the friends and subscribers to this useful charity, which was founded for the purpose of giving relief to aged and decayed members of the building trades, was held on Thursday morning at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, for the purpose of electing three persons upon the fund from a long list of candidates; Thomas Grissell, Esq. F.S.A. president of the institution, in the chair.

The report, which was highly satisfactory, stated that there are now on the funds of the society eight males and four females, making with those elected yesterday morning ten males and five females. Owing to a recent alteration in the bye-laws, the benefits of the institution are extended to the provinces, and the directors are empowered to appoint district committees for carrying out the necessary details. The first branch of the society was lately opened at Brighton, and is making satisfactory progress, the project having been received with great favour by the large builders in that town and neighbourhood. The report concluded by observing that the expectations formed of the success of the Institution at its formation had been fully borne out by results, and the directors hoped that the public would come forward and enable them to still further extend its benefits.

The Chairman briefly addressed the meeting, and stated that since the last election an alteration had been made in the rules of the society, for allowing the votes polled by unsuccessful candidates to be carried forward to their account until they should be finally successful. He concluded by urging the claims of the Institution upon the benevolent for support, and stated that he hoped the public would come forward and enable the directors to further carry out their philanthropic endeavours to support their poorer brethren, three only out of a list of sixteen candidates being that day to be elected.

Mr. George Bird, the treasurer, said that he should not feel satisfied until there were twenty persons on the fund, and hoped that funds would speedily come in for that purpose.

THE ACANTHUS AND THE BASKET.

Balmy the air, gentle the breeze,
Wafting the perfume out of the trees:
Sacred the place where Corinth's maid sleeps,
Blest be the matron that over her weeps.

"Here," says the Basket, "safe she shall lie,
So fair and so young—dear me—I could cry!"
The Acanthus from under, calls out with a shout,
"Do you think I'm content to be smother'd right out?

"Move, if you please, just to one side
Let me grow up in the height of my pride."
The Basket mourn'd for the gentle maid,
And heard not a word that the proud plant said.

"You won't? Very well—I make a vow
You shan't move a step—recollect now!"
Balmy the air, gentle the breeze,
Wafting the perfume out of the trees.

Stealthily creeping, she spreads out her leaves,
So fragile, so pliant, the threads are she weaves,
Carving them over, twining them round,
The Basket, at last, finds out that she's bound!

Pleased with its work, the Acanthus sticks to,
And won't move an inch, tho' the Basket says "do."
"Here we will stay, and the world shall admire
What you urged me to do, in a moment of ire."

Balmy the air, gentle the breeze,
Wafting the perfume forth from the leaves,
Softly the Cyprus waves, as if weeping
Over the place where the maiden is sleeping.

C. R.

Notices of Books.

The Autobiography of William Jerdan, M.R.S.L. with his Literary, Political, and Social Reminiscences and Correspondence during the last fifty years. Vol. I. London: Hall, Virtue, and Co. 1852.

We have not read a more interesting volume than this for a long time;—amusing from first to last, and not without its teachings. For fifty years Mr. Jerdan has been in the world of letters: for thirty-four years he edited the *Literary Gazette*, originated by himself at a time when there was no similar organ in the country for the expression of literary and artistic criticism, and during the whole of that period he was connected intimately with the men of most note and eminence before the public. As he says in his introductory chapter,—

"When I state that my juvenile associates numbered, among others not unknown to fame, such individuals as the late Lord High Chancellor of England, Lord Truro, and the Lord Chief Baron; that years of my middle life were past in confidential intercourse with the statesmen of the day, such as Lord Farnborough, Huskisson, Arbuthnot, Cooke, and still later, with many of the eminent characters who have held high places in the government of the country; and that, both in the preceding and later periods of my course, I enjoyed the friendship and unreserved intimacy of George Canning, and the regard and familiar acquaintance of almost every person of celebrity in the land—political, scientific, artistic, literary, or otherwise remarkable—it may not be too much to predicate that I have a great deal to communicate worthy of popular and even national acceptation. Without presumption, I can truly assert that my stores are very considerable both in variety and value, and I hope to make a good use of my materials."

The volume now published fully justifies the anticipation, and we sincerely hope that it will have such a sale as may lead the author of it to prosecute his task vigorously and with good heart. He will find sadness in the retrospect; as Swain sings,—

"The days gone by—from shore to shore
Their ever lengthening shadows spread;
On, on, 'till Time shall breathe no more,
And Earth itself be with the dead:
Each brief unnoticed minute bears
The mandate of its God on high;
And death and silence are the heirs
Of days gone by—of days gone by."

He has found it so, indeed, already.

"Where are they (he asks) who began their hopeful career with me? Where are they? Oh, how few have threaded the trying path, and are now among the living! How many have perished and are forgotten; or, at most, but momentarily recalled by the converse of old friends, who are so shortly to follow them into a like oblivion! No need have I, or men of the same period of life, to go, like Hervey, among the tombs for meditations. Every bustling street and teeming thoroughfare, every home visit and social meeting, every private party and public occasion, utter silent voices which speak mournfully of the absent, and trumpet-tongued of the dead. Friend after friend has departed, and when struck by misfortune, by trouble, by sickness, in vain do we look around for the succour that relieved, the sympathy that supported, the love that consoled: all, or nearly all, are gone, and we are left alone—alone!"

It is not our province to inquire why of three ardent intellectual spirits who entered London life arm-in-arm, and for a time fought the fight together, we find one, late Lord Chancellor of England, Truro; the second, the Lord Chief Baron, Sir Frederick Pollock; and the third, with little garnered but experiences and memories, writing his recollections to meet necessities, somewhat too pressing. We remember only the kindly expressions and encouraging comments, in younger life, of a generous critic, willing, on all occasions, to say the good word, whenever the good word *could* be said, and even if the volume had needed an excuse from us, it would have found it. So far, however, from this being the case, we can conscientiously recommend it for itself, as well to those who do not know the author as to those who do.

Revue Générale de l'Architecture et des Travaux Publics; a Journal for Architects, Archæologists, Engineers, and Contractors. Published under the direction of M. Cæsar Daly: Paris, Rue de Furstemberg, No. 4. Parts I. II. III. and IV. for 1852.

The present parts of this ably conducted journal contain papers on Monastic Architecture, by M. Albert Lenoir; on the Decoration of Notre Dame for the recent *Te Deum*; on the Origin and Developments of the Art of Building in France, from the Fall of the Roman Empire to the Sixteenth Century, by M. Viollet Le Duc; on the Ironwork of the Middle Ages, by M. Cæsar Daly; and other essays. Amongst the engravings will be found, besides illustrations of these papers, plans and views of the *Bibliothèque Ste. Geneviève*, at Paris; plans of Paris houses; a valuable plan of the *Maison Nationale de Santé*, at Charenton, and many others.

This *Revue Générale* is devoted specially to the history, theory, and practice of building. It treats particularly, first, of the architectural archæology of all times and countries; secondly, æsthetic and scientific researches relating to architecture; thirdly, the different applications of the art of building, such as masonry, carpentry, decoration, new inventions, sanitary arrangements; and, fourthly, industrial, artistic, and scientific news, competitions, and accounts of public works. Each part is profusely illustrated, and the cost is 45 francs per annum. Nine volumes have been already published, and form a worthy monument of the ability and knowledge of their editor, M. Daly.

A BUDGET OF TRAVELS.

And an interesting one it is; comprising, firstly, "A Journey to Nepaul, with the Camp of Jung Bahadoor. By Lawrence Oliphant," a son of Sir Anthony Oliphant, C.B. Chief Justice of Ceylon. This little volume is published by Mr. Murray, in his "Railway Reading." It is not a reprint, but fresh from pen and press. Secondly, follows, "Huc's Travels in Tartary, Thibet, and China, a condensed translation, by Mrs. Percy Sinnett," in two parts of Messrs. Longman's "Traveller's Library;" and thirdly, belonging to the same library, "African Wanderings; or an Expedition from Sennaar to Taka, Basa, and Beni-Amer; with a particular glance at the Races of Bellad Sudan. By Ferdinand Werne, author of 'Expedition in Search of the Sources of the White Nile;' translated from the German by J. R. Johnston."

Though all full of curious and entertaining matter, doubtless the interest we have all felt in our recent visitor, Jung Bahadoor, the Nepaulese ambassador, and his brothers, will render the first of these recent issues especially popular. It is written in a lively style, which is well sustained by the novelty and interest of its subject. There are frequent notices and descriptions of buildings, and other architectural details in its pages, and from these we shall glean a sample of the whole.

The ancient capital of Nepaul is Patn; the capital of the present day, Katmandu, being a comparatively modern city, built by the Ghorkan conquerors of the Newars, or natives of Nepaul. In speaking of the fantastic and singular structures in Patn, Mr. Oliphant says:—

"Whence the designs originated, or in what other part of the known world anything is to be seen approaching to the style of Newar architecture, it would be impossible to conjecture. Houses built of horn are said to exist at Lassa; and from Lassa, I should imagine, came the designs for the temples and houses of Patn. Time has mellowed their bright colours—if they were ever painted at all like those at Katmandu—into a sombre, quiet grey. The Durbar, a huge, massive building, is absolutely covered with black wood-carving. The care displayed in its execution is still apparent through the mass of dust and cobwebs which almost conceal it; for the old Durbar of Patn is deserted. The residence of the monarchs who ruled the happy valley is in strong contrast with the smiling appearance of their former territory. It alone seems to have gone into mourning for its former occupants, while the valley seems to thrive as well under the rule of the Ghorkas as it did under that of the Newars. The Durbar is of great extent, and occupies one side of the square, in the centre of which stand two monoliths, between 30 and 40 feet high: one of them is the figure of an angel, represented in all respects as angels usually are, with the addition of a magnificent gilt tail: this, together with a pair of large gilt wings, gave it a most gorgeous appearance."

The Newars appear to be skilful artizans:—

"The bricks of Nepaul are deservedly famed: whether the virtue lies in the clay of which they are formed, or the skill with which they are made, I do not know—most probably in both. The Newars excel also in bell-making: it is the trade of the land: they are all bellmakers from their youth, and proofs of their skill are exhibited hanging at the corners of pagodas, swinging from the roofs of houses, surmounting dagobas—in fact, the device upon a Nepaulese banner should be a bell."

Jung's palace, amongst others, is described: it is—

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